

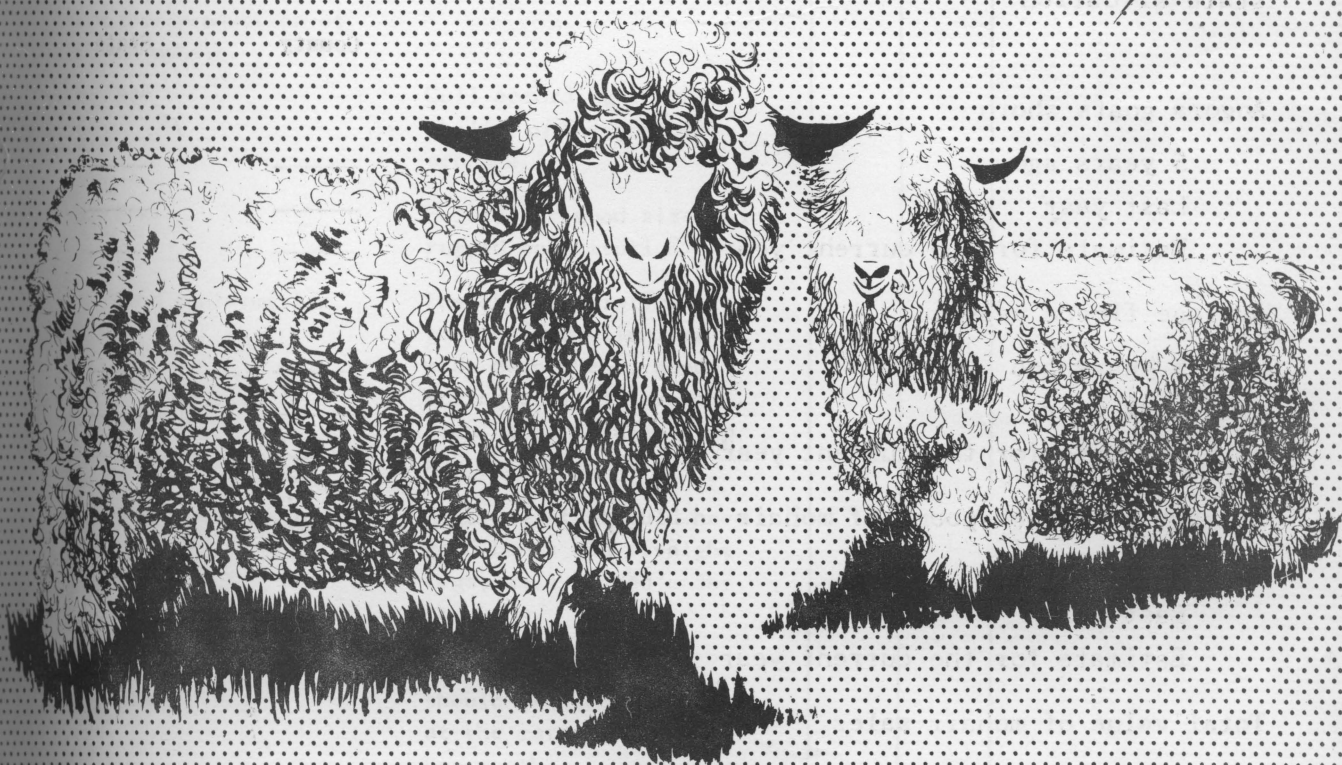
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BUILDING THE COUNTY

ANGORA GOAT

AND

MOHAIR PROGRAM



TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

J. E. Hutchison, Director, College Station, Texas

BUILDING THE COUNTY ANGORA GOAT AND MOHAIR PROGRAM

JAMES A. GRAY

Extension Animal Husbandman

Texas A. & M. College System

THE EXTENSION ANGORA GOAT AND MOHAIR PROGRAM should be developed to meet the needs of your county. Producers of Angora goats and handlers of mohair are logical individuals to develop this program. Unless the county program has their support, it cannot succeed.

To develop a county program, you should be familiar with the production and marketing problems of the area. The program building committee members should rank these problems according to importance and develop a program to help solve them. Producers of Angora goats and handlers of mohair should be able to recognize these problems and with the assistance of the county extension agents plan solutions.

Problems vary from one area to another and from county to county. Some of the county problems may not appear in this outline so the committee should develop and suggest possible solutions to them.

ANGORA GOAT AND MOHAIR PRODUCTION DATA

The following data may prove helpful to the committee in developing the county program by giving a picture of the county situation in relation to the state situation.

	County	State
Angora goats shorn		
5 years ago	_____	_____
Last year	_____	_____
Estimate for the current year	_____	_____
Average fleece weight		
5 years ago	_____	_____
Last year	_____	_____
Estimate for the current year	_____	_____
Average price per pound of mohair		
5 years ago	_____	_____
Last year	_____	_____
Estimate for the current year	_____	_____
Total value of mohair sales		
5 years ago	_____	_____
Last year	_____	_____
Estimate for the current year	_____	_____

	County	State
Percent kid crop		
5 years ago	_____	_____
Last year	_____	_____
Estimate for the current year	_____	_____
Average price of kids sold		
5 years ago	_____	_____
Last year	_____	_____
Estimate for the current year	_____	_____

CURRENT ANGORA GOAT PRODUCTION PRACTICES

Practice	Recommendation	County Situation		
		Good	Fair	Needs Improvement
1. Select for desired mohair type.	Use B, C or webb lock type.			
2. Follow a selection program for higher production of kids and mohair.				
a. Age.	Cull according to the ability of the goat to produce.			
b. Size.	Select for good size and rugged constitution.			
c. Good conformation.	The characteristics of good conformation are a wide deep chest, good spring of ribs, broad loin, good straight top and bottom lines.			
d. Good feet and legs.	Angora goats should have good bones and straight legs, well placed under the body.			
e. Staple length of mohair.	A good Angora goat should produce mohair at the rate of 1 inch per month.			
f. Fineness of mohair.	Select for good quality as well as for pounds.			

Practice	Recommendation	County Situation		
		Good	Fair	Needs Improvement
g. Fleece weight.	Fleece weight should be a minimum of 4 pounds per shearing.			
h. Uniformity of fineness.	Discriminate against goats with coarse britch or coarse area on the throat.			
i. Completeness of covering.	The body should be well covered with mohair, except for the face.			
j. "Sheepy" fleeces.	Eliminate from flock.			
3. Select bucks from high producing flocks.	Use production tested bucks when possible.			
4. Control external parasites.	Spray or dip with recommended insecticides.			
5. Control internal parasites.	Drench as needed; use phenothiazine salt.			
6. Control predators.	Control predators by government trapper and/or county dog law.			
7. Castrate and mark.	Castrate and mark for greatest development and for identification.			
8. Provide proper shelter.	Freshly shorn goats need shelter for 6 weeks.			
9. Feed mineral supplements.	Feed minerals to meet county needs.			
10. Provide the proper number of bucks to does.	Provide 3 bucks to 100 does.			
11. Provide adequate watering facilities.	Goats should not have to travel over 1/2 mile to water.			
12. Plan for proper stocking rate.	Provide stocking rate according to county recommendations.			
13. Provide supplemental feeding.	Use home grown feeds when possible; buy supplemental feeds when plentiful.			
14. Obtain a good percentage of kid crop.	Improve the county wide kid crop.			
15. Use temporary pastures.	Use temporary pastures when possible.			

Practice	Recommendation	County Situation		
		Good	Fair	Needs Improvement
16. Follow good shearing practices.	Shear in the spring and fall; three shearings are not recommended.			
17. Increase fleece weights.	Increase the county average.			
18. Provide a proper place to shear.	Provide good clean pens; shear on boards or on the floor.			
19. Use cases only when necessary.	Cases are not recommended when other management is practical.			
20. Artificial oiling is not recommended.	Discourage this practice.			
21. Separate kids and adult goats for shearing.	Keep kid mohair and adult mohair separate.			
22. Pack bags uniformly.	Bags should weigh about 300 pounds.			
23. Keep bags clean.	Lower bags on to a tarp or clean floor.			
24. Keep bags clean while hauling.	Clean truck or trailer and cover with a tarp.			
25. Store mohair in a safe place.	Keep clean and dry, preferably where insured.			
26. Keep records.	Keep records of average shearing weights, price, shearing price and bag weights.			

PROJECTS FOR THIS YEAR

After the county situation has been studied, your committee may wish to list the weakest parts of the county program. Some phases of the program will require several years to show progress and some may need continuous attention. List the parts of the program that need the most attention; suggest goals and a year for their completion.

Project	Suggested Goal	Year for Completion
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

**Subcommittee Assignments for
Each Major Project**

Project No. 1

_____ Chairman

Project No. 2

_____ Chairman

Project No. 3

_____ Chairman

Project No. 4

_____ Chairman

Project No. 5

_____ Chairman

Project No. 6

_____ Chairman

Committee members may serve on more than one project committee. Leaders, such as warehousemen, feed dealers and bankers can give valuable assistance to these committees. There may be more or less subcommittees than suggested here, depending on the county situation.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS

Angora Goat Improvement Through Selection

- I. Survey producers to determine interest.
 - A. Enlist help of those already interested.
 - B. Enlist help of warehousemen, feed dealers and bankers.
- II. Give an Angora goat selection demonstration to explain the program and encourage participation.
 - A. Use personal contacts, press, radio and television to stimulate interest.
 - B. Enlist the help of other interested parties.
 - C. Discuss these points at the demonstration:
 1. Flexibility of the program.
 2. Differences in B, C and webb lock Angora goats.
 3. Points to consider in making selections.
 4. Progress that can be expected.
 5. Value of good sires.
 6. Value of keeping records.
 - D. Shear some of the goats to demonstrate the differences in fleece weights of high and low-producing goats.

III. Plan tours to ranches when programs are underway.

- A. Tour at shearing time to observe improvement in fleece weights and *quality of mohair*.
- B. Tour a warehouse to observe grading of mohair and to observe clips from ranches following selection and those not following selection.

IV. Prepare exhibits at local warehouses or banks.

- A. Show differences in quality groups.
- B. Use a grading report.
- C. Show different types of locks produced by Angora goats.

Artificial Oiling of Goats

I. Survey the county situation.

- A. Enlist the help of warehousemen and bankers.
- B. Have committee members visit the warehouse and observe results of artificial oiling.
- C. Have committee members contact buyers and companies buying mohair and obtain their observations.

II. Prepare an exhibit at a local warehouse, bank or downtown store.

- A. Obtain samples of artificially oiled mohair and natural mohair and have them scoured.
- B. Point out the difference in shrinkage of the two mohair types.
- C. Point out the harmful effects on the luster and difficulty of removing artificial oil.
- D. Point out the possible effect on future market conditions.

Marketing Graded Mohair

I. Determine interest in the county.

II. Plan a tour to observe the program.

- A. Visit ranches where quality mohair is being produced.
- B. Visit a warehouse to observe mohair grading.
- C. Obtain a grading report and compare selling prices of graded mohair with original bag prices.

III. Prepare an exhibit.

- A. Show mohair grades together with prices of both graded mohair and original bag prices.
- B. Use a grading report to show the advantages of marketing mohair on a graded basis.

Range Testing of Bucks

I. Study the ram testing work at the Sonora Experiment Station.

II. Set up a program in the county.

- A. Get interested breeders to cooperate.

- B. Get at least three weights on bucks at weaning time and fall and spring shearings.
- C. Obtain fleece weights of bucks for known periods of growth.
- D. Obtain staple lengths of bucks for known periods of growth.
- E. Keep accurate records on the above so that the average daily gain and mohair production can be compared.
- F. Encourage the use of production tested bucks.

Winter Supplemental Feeding of Angora Goats

- I. Enlist the aid of interested ranchmen, feed dealers and warehousemen.
- II. Set up a demonstration.
 - A. Have a control group receiving only regular grazing.
 - B. Obtain fleece weights, body weights and percent of kid crop.
 - C. Get mohair measured or graded to show the effect of feed on quality.
 - D. Prepare a statement showing feed costs and mohair production for both groups.
- III. Prepare an attractive exhibit, using charts, mohair and pictures obtained from demonstration.

REFERENCE MATERIAL ON ANGORA GOATS

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station

- B-844 - Marketing Texas Goats
- PR - 1726 - Results of Grazing Single Classes of Livestock in Combination with Several Classes When Stocking Rates are Constant
- MP - 206 - Goats Pay for Clearing Grand Prairie Rangelands

American Angora Goat Breeders Association Bulletin - The Angora Goat

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